

BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER is located one mile north of I-70 on Hwy 7, one mile west on Park Road. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. **Area Hours: the area and trails are open 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for Daylight Savings Time.** No pets allowed. There is no admission fee. The Nature Shop closes at 4:30 p.m. Phone: 816-228-3766

LEARN MORE ABOUT BURR OAK WOODS BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT:
WWW.BURROAKWOODS.ORG



The Nutshell

BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER
 MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
 1401 NW PARK ROAD - BLUE SPRINGS, MO 64015

Fish & Wildlife Feeding

The fish, turtles and amphibians are fed Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Snakes are fed every Friday at 3:30 p.m.

AUDIO WALKING TAPE

Perfect for a Spring hike! Be sure to check out Burr Oak Woods audio walking tape for the Habitat Trail!

No MORE Trash!

Come to the nature center and pick up a **FREE** No MORE Trash window cling!

Missouri Free Fishing Weekend!

June 7th & 8th

BURR OAK WOODS WISH LIST

Following is a list of items that the nature center needs for our programming with the public.

- Children's PDF life jackets
- Flyfishing poles and reels
- Zebco 33 fishing reels
- Lead-free weights & split shot
- Children's nature books
- 28-gal. storage bins w/ lids
- New Chainsaw
- Commercial Vacuum

The answer is FOOD CHAIN.

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The Nutshell

JUNE 2003
 Volume 17
 Number 6

Newsletter of Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

Ribbit and Roll! Nature Music at the Woods!

FRIDAY, JUNE 20TH AT 7:00 P.M.

Be sure to bring a blanket to sit on in the lawn. Relax and get back to nature with Emmy winner- songwriter Jan Syrigos (*Critter Rock!*). Jan is a Naturalist at Runge Conservation Nature Center in Jefferson City. Don't miss out this special opportunity to join us for an evening outside and enjoy the wonderful tapestry of natural songs! In case of inclement weather, it will be held inside the auditorium. Be prepared to have a **ribbit** good time!



Jan Syrigos

Burr Oak Woods Summer Challenge

by Lisa LaCombe

The young girl looked unsure as I helped her to buckle her lifejacket securely around her waist. "Are you ready?" I asked.

Her eyes widened a little. "I have never been in a boat before, will it tip over? I'm kind of afraid."

"Don't worry, we'll give some instructions before we go out in the canoes. You will be a pro in no time at all. Okay?"

The rest of the children, clad in bulky orange vests, gathered around, eyes dancing in excitement and perhaps a little bit of apprehension, chattering nervously. The strokes were demonstrated and we went over the rules.

"Are you ready?" The participants seemed to relax somewhat when they saw that the leaders would be joining them out in the pond.

One by one, the teams launched their canoes, and began to paddle.

First attempts were tentative and erratic, as they zigzagged across the pond. But it didn't take long before the students discovered how to work together as a team, movements becoming more and more fluid and graceful.

All too soon, we had to direct the children back to the dock. There were choruses of "Do we have to quit already?" It took some time to convince them that it was time to beach their canoe. As they turned over the canoes and removed their life jackets, I assured them that the fun had only just begun. Next destination?

Archery! To round off the day: Air rifles! They looked at each other..."Let's go!"

At the end of the day, the kids gathered under the shade of the shelter house, tired and sweating, but filled with a sense of teamwork and accomplishment.

Why are Outdoor Skills so important? From collecting wild edibles to tracking animals. From hunting and fishing, to floating on one of Missouri's streams,

outdoor skills is a part of our conservation heritage that has been passed through the generations. In our fast paced world of technology, exploring nature is becoming a thing of the past. Yet, it is a true expression of the mission of the Missouri Department of Conservation: to bring people and nature together. This is our promise to you.

This outdoor skills staff challenges you to spend your summer exploring with exciting outdoor adventure at Burr Oak Woods Nature Center. No, it is not virtual. This is the real deal! Check out the new Go Wild! programs in June! In July, you and your friends and family will not want to miss our outdoor skills programs and the Extreme Outdoor Skills Challenge!

Whichever you choose, we promise that you will not be bored this summer, turn off the TV and accept the challenge! Go Wild! with us at Burr Oak Woods!

Our mission is to bring people and nature together.



From the Treetops

The TV is blaring, the bedrooms are a mess, and the beeping of video games fills the air, it can mean only one thing, the kids are out of school! If you're tired of having them underfoot, not getting enough fresh air or exercise, do we have a deal for you! "Go Wild," summer programs at Burr Oak Woods are for kids only!

These individualized programs are designed to get kids into the thick of it all. The programs delve in specialty subjects and kids will spend several hours experiencing nature at its finest. Best of all, they'll be having so much fun they won't even know they're learning at the same time. To make these programs have a more dramatic impact, program size will be limited to small groups of 10 - 15 kids per program.

We know these programs are going to be in high demand, so we're swaying a bit from our typical sign up. Instead of first come/first serve and signing up for as many programs as you wish, if you would like for your child to be able to participate in this wonderful summer activity that is free of charge, you need to fill out the attached application and send it into the nature center by June 5, 2003. You need to let us know which programs you are applying for, in preference order.

We have really brainstormed the most fair way to allow the most families to participate in these programs, and we think this method is best. We hope you agree, and we hope you enjoy this summer series. Have a wonderful summer. Happy Trails!

— LYNN YOUNGBLOOD
Nature Center Manager



Jim's Fishing Tip

Now that warm water is drawing us to the lake to catch "ole whiskers," the channel cat, try using a very small float between your sinker and the bait. This will lift your bait a couple of inches off the bottom. The channel catfish's upper lip extends over and past his lower lip. By holding the bait just off the bottom, you should be able to catch more fish. And speaking of warm water, when the temperature reaches 60+ degrees, bluegill will come to banks to build their nests, with the males guarding them after the eggs are laid. This is a wonderful time to share the joy of catching this little hunk of dynamite with your children or grandchildren.

(Editor's Note: Volunteer Naturalist Jim Hawes will share fishing tips each month in "The Nutshell." Enjoy!)

-Jim

Critter Corner



Belt Kingfisher

by Diane Neal

The belted kingfisher is a better fisherman than even MY dad! The kingfisher doesn't have to use a pole or line. He doesn't even have to use a lure! And forget all those fancy electronic devices many people use to find the fish hot spots. The kingfisher uses the tried and true method of "wait and see." He will sit on a branch overhanging the water and wait for a fish to swim by. Then, with no regard for his personal safety, the



kingfisher will jump off his perch and dive head first into the water, catching the unsuspecting fish in his beak. Voila! Dinner is served! Now you may be asking "Now what?" The kingfisher has a wet, wiggling fish hanging sideways out of his mouth... how does he get it down? He doesn't have a knife and fork and he doesn't have any teeth. Our clever kingfisher will WHACK the fish against a branch until it's dead, then flip the fish up in the air and opens its mouth WIDE! He swallows the fish whole, head first! YUM! Now you know why the belted kingfisher is the king of all fishermen.

- NATURAL HAPPENINGS -

- ▲ Watch for female snapping turtles laying eggs in deep sand. They can lay anywhere from 20-30 eggs at a time.
- ▲ This month is the peak of bullfrog breeding. Listen for the deep "ger-a-a-rum" of the male bullfrog as he calls for a mate.
- ▲ Cattail blooms are covered with pollen. Pollen can be collected and used as a flour substitute in biscuits, pancakes, and muffins.
- ▲ Watch for northern water snakes basking on branches overhanging water or on logs near the waters edge.

BURR OAK WOODS Conservation Nature Center

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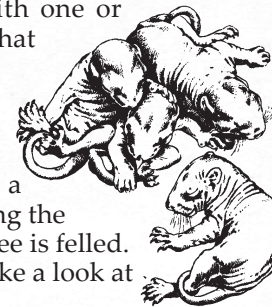
NEWSLETTER LAYOUT/DESIGN
SHERI MEDLOCK

~ Naturalist Notebook ~

They're Cute, They're Lost... Or Are They?

R. Craig Hensley, Interpretive Programs Supervisor

Each spring and summer a fair number of us will have an encounter with one or more young wild animals that we may presume has been abandoned by mom and/or dad. Or, as in the case of the man that stopped in at the nature center the other day, a nest of young is found during the repair of a roof or when a tree is felled. So, what do you do? Let's take a look at our options.



First and foremost, you should leave it alone and let nature take its course. In many ways, this is probably the best option, however many of us don't like the idea of leaving a "helpless" critter to fend for itself. But, before you gather it up, please remember that many times the animal you found is there for a reason, either the mother left it there and moved away to lessen the likelihood that it would be discovered between feeding times or it may be nearby simply waiting for you to leave. Furthermore that helpless animal typically isn't so helpless. As a general rule of thumb, most wild

animals are better off without our interference, unless of course there is a marauding cat nearby or the wild animal is in the same area as your pet dog.

Secondly, if you do gather it up or stumble upon a nest of young animals when doing roof repair, tree removal or the like, don't assume that you can take it home and feed it bread and water. Chances are you are issuing the critter(s) a death sentence. Additionally, it's not enjoyable to try and help and have it result in failure, especially if your children are involved.

Lastly, if you do gather up the animal(s), take them to a trained wildlife rehabilitation facility and let them take responsibility. These trained staff and volunteers know what it takes to successfully raise young animals, most of us are not. In the Kansas City area, Lakeside Nature Center is the place to contact. They will do everything they can to help the animals you find, whether healthy or injured. For more information, contact them at (816) 513-8960.



Burr Oak Woods' Staff Profile Joan Blackmon



What do you like about working here?

I enjoy the different people we meet daily. Having the opportunity to learn more about nature and the wildlife here.

Family:

Husband J.C. and I have been together 18 yrs; 2 Sons: Jeff (32) married to Shawna w/3 kids Andrew, Hannah & Elizabeth; Jeremy (28) married to Teresa w/4 kids Bill, Jeremy Jr., Victoria & Allison 1 Daughter: Jamee (22) married to Chris

How long have you been with the Missouri Department of Conservation?

Hired on December 1, 2000 (2 years 5 months)

Hobbies:

I enjoy hunting, fishing and walks in the woods hunting for morel mushrooms.

Other Points of Interest:

Spending time at our farm. Enjoying our family, spending time with them, and helping my husband with his hobby of Willy's Jeeps.

GO WILD! Program Registration



Parent's Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone- Home: _____ Work: _____

Child 1: _____ Age: _____ Child 3: _____ Age: _____
First Choice: _____ First Choice: _____
Second Choice: _____ Second Choice: _____

Child 2: _____ Age: _____ Child 4: _____ Age: _____
First Choice: _____ First Choice: _____
Second Choice: _____ Second Choice: _____

Send your form to:
Burr Oak Woods Go
Wild! Program, 1401
NW Park Rd., Blue
Springs, Mo 64015

OUTDOOR SKILLS

SUMMER CHALLENGE!

If you love to have fun outdoors, and would like to learn new skills, then, this program is for you! Teamwork and safety will be stressed. You might even make a few new friends!

You will love the action filled day! Don't forget your water bottle, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Lunch is provided. Join us as we learn the basics of these outdoor skills:

Air Rifles: Have you always wanted to learn how to shoot a rifle? We will teach you how to aim and shoot at a target. Gun safety will be stressed.

You are guaranteed to have fun and stay safe in this program... can you hit the bulls-eye?

Archery: The number of archery enthusiasts continues to grow every year. It is just plain fun! Join us on the Prairie Archery Range to develop your skills with a compound bow! Wait until you try the challenge!

Canoeing: Did you know that Missouri has over 57,000 miles of floatable streams? Let's launch our boats on the pond and learn important canoeing skills that you will need if going on a float trip with your family. We'll even teach you the most sought after paddling technique.

Outdoor Skills Camp

Ages 8 - 12

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Mondays, July 7, 14, 21, or 28
Tuesdays, July 8 or 29
or Wednesday, July 23

Ages 13 - 18

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Wednesdays, July 9, 16 or 30
or Tuesday, July 22



Outdoor Skills Camp Challenge!

Put your teamwork and outdoor skills to the ultimate challenge! Compete against other teams for prizes! You must attend one of the skills camp days to participate in a challenge event.

Ages 8 - 18

Sign up for morning
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. OR
afternoon 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Thursdays, July 10, 17, 24, or 31

REGISTRATION

All Outdoor Skills programs requires registration. Please call at (816) 228 - 3766 on or after **July 1** to register for a program. If you need to cancel, please call and cancel so the people on the waiting list may attend. Thank you!

Outdoor Skills Camp Just for Families

(Children must be at least 7 to participate)
This camp will be broken down into skills segments offered on three consecutive **Sundays**.

Archery:
July 6 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Canoeing:
July 13 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Air Rifles:
July 20 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Outdoor Skills Camp Challenge Just for Families

Compete against other families for fun and prizes! You must attend each of the Sunday family skills to participate in the challenge.

Thursday, July 24
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Are you and your children tired of the same old summer day camps? Do your children become bored after only a couple of weeks of summer freedom? Do you get tired of seeing your kid's gathered around a television or X Box? Then this exciting new series of summer programs are for you! We will explore a Burr Oak Woods that you may have never seen before! There will be two programs for each age group. We will explore miniature worlds, go creekin', uncover a mystery and go on a treasure hunt! Check us out!



Ages 6 - 8

Creepy Crawlies

Have you ever stopped to watch an ant as it worked or wondered where that pill bug came from and where is it going? Well, join us for a look into the hidden world of the "creepy crawlies" of Burr Oak Woods.
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
June 13 or June 24

Fantastic Frogs and Terrific Toads

How exactly do you tell the difference between frogs and toads? Slippery and smooth or dry and warty, we are going get to know these fascinating amphibians and take an up-close look into their wonderful world.
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
June 20 or June 26



GO WILD!

WITH THE NATURALISTS AT BURR OAK WOODS!

Ages 9 - 11

Burr Oak Creek Expedition

Burr Oak Creek has many delightful secrets just waiting to be discovered. Join the team as we explore its hidden wonders from boundary to boundary. Bring a snack and water. Dress to get wet and muddy! Join in on the fun!
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
June 6 or June 17

"M" Files

Ladies and Gentlemen, we've called in the naturalists in black! Your students will be asked to become special agents of this team. We will work together to uncover the clues surrounding this case, using rap sheets and eyewitness accounts. See if you can identify the "mystery mammal" in a lineup. Intelligence reports indicate that we will uncover the clues somewhere deep within the forest! Bring a snack and water.
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
June 11 or June 12

REGISTRATION

The GO WILD! is a new summer program, each summer months will have a special section of GO WILD! themes. **To register for a GO WILD! program, complete and send the registration form inside the back page of the Nutshell.** Hope to see you there! *Limit of 10 - 15 Kids per program*

WHOO Dun It?

The Naturalists at Burr Oak Woods need your help! We have a STRANGE mystery that needs to be solved on the Missouri Tree Trail. The animals are in an uproar and even Sherlock Holmes is baffled. Come and challenge your detective skills to help us solve this CRAZY who-dun-it!
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
June 24 or June 25

Ages 12 - 14

Stream Stroll

Join us as we take a stroll and discover so many delightful secrets on the Burr Oak Creek. We will be searching for all stream residents! Bring a snack and water. Dress to get wet and muddy! Join in on the fun!
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
June 13 or June 27

Goin' on a Treasure Hunt

We've taught you map and compass before, but this time we'll be looking for treasure. We will give you a refresher course on how to use a map and compass, and then we'll head into the woods on a treasure hunt. Bring your water bottle and a snack and we'll eat on the trail!
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
June 19 or June 20



JUNE EVENTS *at Burr Oak Woods*

Call Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center on or after June 1 to register for these free programs (Phone 228-3766 V/TDD). If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

Saturdays in June! Grandma's Story Time

7, 14, 21, 28
Grandma has some new and exciting nature stories to share with young and old alike. Join us as she spins a tale or two. No Registration required.
Time: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Ages: All Ages

7 Saturday
Meet a Snake
Join us as we teach you some new and exciting information about one of Missouri's native snake species, the Speckled Kingsnake. Meet this wonderful snake in person and maybe even touch it! (If you Dare!) Please call to register. All ages welcome.
Time: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Ages: Families

Fishing!

Set aside some time to enjoy Missouri's favorite past-time, fishing! This is a jump-start program. We'll show you the "how's" and "where's", you put together "when." This program is sure to get you hooked! We provide the bait and equipment. Participants 16-65 years of age must have a valid Missouri fishing license which can be purchased at the Nature Center. Please call to register.



7 Saturday
On Gossamer Wings: Butterflies, Part 1
Join IPS Craig Hensley for the first of a four-month series of programs looking at the world of butterflies. During this session, we'll look at their life cycles and natural history, followed by a walk in search of the real thing, from red admirals to tiger swallowtails. Please call to register.
Time: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Ages: Adults Only (20 and up)

7 Saturday
8 Sunday
Nature Movies: Great Escapes
Come join us as we watch a Wild America classic: Great Escapes. This film shows many exciting wildlife encounters between the predator and prey. No registration required.
Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Ages: All Ages

8 Sunday
Burr Oak Woods Hiking Club
Join volunteer naturalists Marvin and Linda Roberts for a wonderful afternoon of hiking on one of the trails at James A. Reed Memorial Conservation Area. A great program to meet new friends! Bring water bottle and dress for the weather. Please call to register.
Time: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Ages: Adults (20 and up)

7 Saturdays
21 Family Fishing
Time: 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Ages: Families (5 and up)

14 Saturday
Fishing 101
For the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Time: 9:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Ages: Families (5 and up)

19 Thursday
Golden Oaks & Tots: Fishing
Time: 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Ages: Grandparents & Tots (4-6)



13 Friday
Bird Walks
As the weather gets hot, so does bird watching! Join us as we walk the trails in search of nesting birds. Bring your binoculars and field guide or borrow one at the nature center.
Time: 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Ages: All Ages

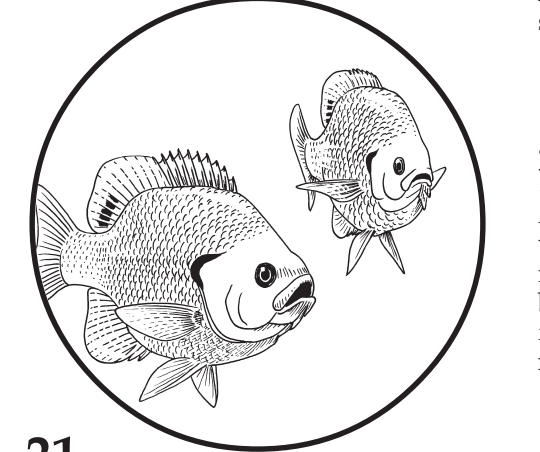


14 Saturday
Nature Scope Series: All About Fish
As part of the New Summer Nature Scope Series, this month we will cover all about fish and crayfish. Be sure to stop by and discover what makes critters so unique from other animals. Test your fish identification knowledge! No registration required.
Time: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Ages: 6 - 10 years old

14 Saturday
15 Sunday
Nature Movies: Missouri Outdoors
Best of Missouri Outdoors will be shown today! This TV show brings great outdoors indoors! No registration required.
Time: 2 - 2:45 p.m.
Ages: All Ages


more! JUNE EVENTS *at Burr Oak Woods*

20 Friday
Ribbit and Roll: Nature Music at the Woods!
Relax and get back to nature with Emmy winner- songwriter Jan Syrigos (*Critter Rock!*). Join us for an evening and enjoy the tapestry of natural songs! A great family summer event!
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Ages: Families



21 Saturday
Adults Only: Wild Edibles Hike
It's that time of year again, so strap on your hiking boots, grab your bug spray, and join us as we head out in search of those elusive wild edibles. There's a lot to be identified out there as we hike on the Missouri Tree Trail. Please call to register.
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Ages: 20 and up

21 Saturday
Dr. Nutcase-Splashin' Around
If your ready to get your hands wet, then join Dr. Nutcase as she dives into the life of aquatic animals. She'll have you discovering some of the unique tricks fish, plants, and other animals are able to do in order to survive in the harsh conditions of Missouri's water habitats. It will be a splashin' good time! Please bring a plastic water bottle. Please call to register.
Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Ages: 7 and up

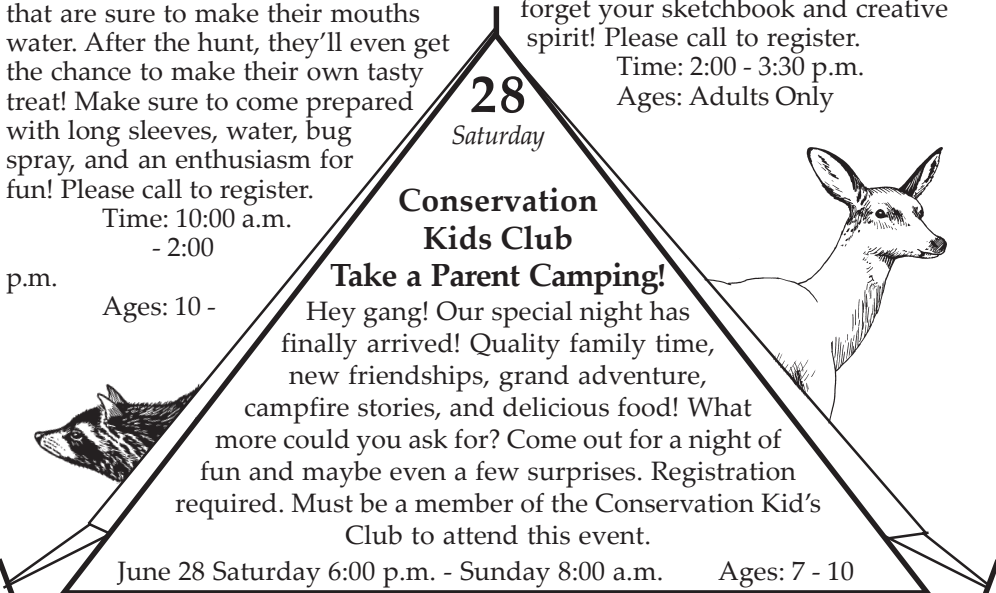


22 Sunday
Water you doing?
We all need water to live, but where does it come from? Where does it go after we are done with it? Will we ever get any more? Bring your family out for an afternoon of fun as we learn about how our families use water and its affect on the land and rivers around us. Your family will be able to get their hands wet as we explore with our stream table. Please call to register.
Time: 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
Ages: Families (8 and up)

27 Friday
Bird Walks
As the weather gets Hot, so does bird watching! Join us as we walk the trails in search of Burr Oak Woods nesting birds. Bring your binoculars and field guides or borrow one at the nature center.
Time: 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Ages: Adults Only

27 Friday
We're goin' on a "Goose" hunt!
We mean gooseberries of course! Your kids aren't going to want to miss this "berry" cool adventure. We're going outside to hunt for those tasty snacks that are sure to make their mouths water. After the hunt, they'll even get the chance to make their own tasty treat! Make sure to come prepared with long sleeves, water, bug spray, and an enthusiasm for fun! Please call to register.
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Ages: 10 -

28 Saturday
Conservation Kids Club
Take a Parent Camping!
Hey gang! Our special night has finally arrived! Quality family time, new friendships, grand adventure, campfire stories, and delicious food! What more could you ask for? Come out for a night of fun and maybe even a few surprises. Registration required. Must be a member of the Conservation Kid's Club to attend this event.
June 28 Saturday 6:00 p.m. - Sunday 8:00 a.m. Ages: 7 - 10





12
28 Saturday
Babes in the Woods
Hey mom's, and dad's babies! We are going out on a sensory nature hike designed just for babies! Don't forget your stroller! Please call to register.
Time: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Ages: Birth to 2 years

28 Saturday
29 Sunday
Nature Movies: Streams
Stream Sense and Streams... the Force of Life will be shown today! From underwater, aerial and floating perspectives, you will see why streams and rivers play a dynamic role in Missouri's nature! No registration required.
Time: 2:00 - 2:40 p.m.
Ages: All Ages

29 Sunday
Nature's Sketchbook
Being out in the field and sketching our natural world is the perfect way to study nature. Join Lisa LaCombe as we head out into the field. Do not hesitate to bring your work from home. Don't forget your sketchbook and creative spirit! Please call to register.
Time: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Ages: Adults Only

The four graphic circles share a relationship with each other. Can you guess what these mean? (Hint: It is part of the aquatic environment's survival.)



Answer is on back of the Nutshell